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ORE memo (1946-50)

see pp. 1 + 2 below

ORR-20

M. P. C.
12 June 1957
rev. 11 July 1957
MPC 17 July 1957

ORR (and ORE) "External Research File," 1947-56:
List of Project Folders
(on deposit in CIA Records Center)

1. Attached herewith is a list of 32 project folders on various external research contracts with outside Federal and non-governmental institutions--some six of them (at least) handled by ORE between 1947 and 1950, and the others, by ORR (or DD/I?), 1951-56. These were retired in September 1956 by ORR/St/A Budget Section as a single accession ("job"), no. 57-114; bulk, 1 linear foot (1 box).

2. While the project titles (in the attached list) do not contain inclusive dates, the "latest dates" are nevertheless listed, and they show that the projects terminated at various dates ranging from May 11, 1950, to April 13, 1956. Hence this file spans both the ORE and ORR periods of CIA's history. From another source, it is evident that some of the present file of ORE project correspondence actually goes back as far as 1947. (See RM Staff's "records control schedule" for ORR, Aug. 1955 ed., Secret, series entry no. 20, when the present file was described as originally surveyed.)

3. The file described herewith seems to represent the entire bulk of this file as it existed in ORR at the time of retirement (Sept. 1956). Thus, the RM survey of Aug. 1955 (cited in par. 2 above) measured the file at 4/10 linear foot, while the present file extends to 1 foot (1 box) in bulk. Because of this discrepancy, it is possible that the present file was reconstituted by ORR from more than one filing office. (How this file is related to similar external-research files, not only in ORR but in O/DDI and in other CIA offices, has not been determined.)

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4. Some of the 1953-56 projects below are specially identified as "DD/I" projects, presumably because they extended beyond ORR's particular needs to the needs of other offices in the DD/I group. These "DDI" projects may therefore be worthy of special selective historical study, aside from any studies on ORR itself. Incidentally none of the projects are labelled as "OIC"-sponsored, although it is known that OIC was a clearing house for external-research projects in 1953-54.

5. Each project folder below is said to contain, characteristically, a copy of the contract, background and follow-up correspondence, and certain financial records. Whether there are historically useful descriptions and evaluations of the project itself is not clear. The RM Staff and ORR have scheduled this as a "temporary" file, to be destroyed when "9 years old," on the assumption (surely unproved, especially for the period from 1947 to 1953, when the Agency had no regularized records-appraisal and scheduling procedure) that other copies of the "essential" papers are on permanent file "elsewhere" in the Agency. (Because of this situation, I have recently recommended to the RM Staff that this file be retained.--M. P. C.)

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1946-50

6. Another accession at the Records Center (not part of the above file but mentioned here in passing) is a group of "source material" files on project "Hangle" (NKVD Labor Camps), accumulated by [REDACTED] in connection with that project, and later, evidently late in 1955, sent to CIA for storage for security reasons. (See accession no. 56-241, Jan. 1956; 8 boxes in bulk.) The files are undated and are not accompanied

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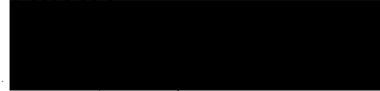
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by a shelflist. Nor have they been officially "scheduled" by the RM Staff, presumably because a question of ownership (CIA or CENIS?) is theoretically involved.

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Distribution in NS working files, 1953-56:
Orig. (with attachment)--"ORR" folder
CC. (without attachment)--"Records Center; ORR; ✓ ND/I; OIC

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

ATTACHMENT